

ST. MARY'S
Episcopal Church



A SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST AT 9PM

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Poinsettia Dedications

LeAnne Allgaier

In thanksgiving for the people of St. Mary's

Al and Sally Alvarez

In thanksgiving for the people of St. Mary's

Jeri and Bill Anderson

In thanksgiving for Karol Libbey and St. Mary's

In memory of Bob Libbey

Michael, Nancy, Jesse, and Cassidy Burke

In thanksgiving for the people of St. Mary's

Charlene Davis

In thanksgiving for Elliott & Charlotte Crowell, my parents

Anne Donaghy

In memory of Tay and Lowell Thomas

Amy Lindsey

In thanksgiving for my beautiful family

Jann and Bob Sherrill

In memory of Doris and Herb Sherrill, Caroleena Sherrill,

Jim Schilling, and Diana Schilling

Barbara Stek

In memory of my parents

Donald (Mark) Williams

In memory of Billie and Quin Williams

Emily Low

In memory of Margaret Weisenfluh

Karol Libbey

In memory of Bob Libbey

Jack and Sherrie Simmonds

In memory of Sherrie and Jack Simmond's parents,
Bill and Beverly Sandberg, Les Simmonds, and Verna Vel.

Dave and Jill Rush

In memory of Jill's parents Nick and Helen Ebacher
In memory of Dave's parents Betty Rush and David Rush Sr.

Gus and Alice Smith

In memory of Dr. Elaine Graham

Gretchen Guess

In memory of Carolyn Guess

Lois Rockcastle

In memory of Glenn and Carolyn Rockcastle, Howard Nichols, Marilyn
Robinson Anderson, Ross Robinson, and Marilyn and Dr. Andrew Noble



THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

The season of Christmas is time for us to come together as people of faith to worship God and celebrate the gifts of life.

If you are new or visiting, we hope you will feel right at home here. If our service seems new or unfamiliar, remember, it is not important whether or not you are on the “right” page. Just relax. You are among friends. Lift your heart and voice to the God who loves you.

Children are always welcome in all our worship services. For those who, for any reason, prefer it, we have a “Wiggle Room” located at the back of the Sanctuary, out and to the right of the doors through which you entered. The room is equipped with toys and a speaker and provides a full view of the Sanctuary.



You are invited back to St. Mary’s, always, at any time. We are a community of miraculous expectation and service rooted in the love of God made known to us in the way of Jesus. This house of prayer and this faith community are open to all, no matter what questions you might have, or where you might find yourself on your spiritual journey. Our prayer is that this place may be for you a place of healing, celebration, true community, and life in all its fullness.

We welcome you, your participation, and (perhaps most of all) your questions. Especially to those whose experience with religion has not been life-giving, please know that there is hope and life and laughter beyond the pain of the past. There is a world of promise in the present, and in the healing power of God’s grace and love. Blessings and peace to you this Holy Night.

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

The ministers of St. Mary's are all the people of St. Mary's

PRESIDER: The Rev. Michael Burke, Rector

CLERGY: The Rev. Israel Portilla-Gómez, Associate Rector

CLERGY: The Rev. Ross McKay

READERS: Cole Barker and Al Alvarez

MUSICIANS: St. Mary's Choir, *directed by Annie Nilsson*

ORGANIST: Rachel Morgan

CANTOR: Emilee Smith

MEDIA SPECIALISTS:

Seth Eggleston

Timothy Baker

Will Weaver

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE • Rachel Morgan, *organ*

WELCOME • The Rev. Michael Burke

***OPENING HYMN** • *O Come, All Ye Faithful* • Hymnal #83, v. 1, 3, 4, and 6
All stand, as able, for the Opening Hymn

-Opening Hymn on next page-

*OPENING HYMN • O Come, All Ye Faithful • Hymnal #83, v. 1, 3, 4, and 6

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

*OPENING SENTENCES AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Celebrant We gather on the lands of the Dena'ina people.

People *From many places and many peoples we come to this house in prayer.*

Celebrant We gather in the presence of God:

People *The Creator who is the source of all that is, seen and unseen*

Celebrant In hope we walk together with Christ:

People *Our Companion who walks with us and with all peoples on the path of reconciliation.*

Celebrant God's Holy Spirit breaths in and through us:

People *The Divine Wisdom who transforms us and all life.*

Celebrant In this time and place, together, people of God from every language, culture, and nation:

People *We are made new by the holy and life-giving Trinity*

*CANDLE-LIGHTING

Reader People of God: shout and sing!
Tell the good news of peace on earth.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.
All God's people say/shout:

People *Amen!*

Reader Angels dance
and the bright star shines.
All creation bows to the Lord of all.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.

All God's people *say/shout*:

Reader

One with us,
yet born to save,
he will show us the way to God.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people *say/shout*:

Amen!

Reader

People of God: shout and sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.

The candle lighter lights the Christ candle

***GLORIA • Glory to God in the Highest • WLP # 901**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to
 peo - ple on earth. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther,
 we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
a little slower
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; -
 — you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

a tempo

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -
 lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

*THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest God be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Priest Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A Reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
 on them light has shined.
 You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.
 For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 96 • Emilee Smith, *cantor*

ANTIPHON

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are: "To - day is born our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord." The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless the Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
For great is God and greatly to be praised;
The Lord is more to be feared than all gods.

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
Oh, the majesty and magnificence of God's presence!
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the Name;
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
bring offerings and come into God's courts.

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before God.
Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King!"
and has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
God will judge the peoples with equity."

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.
God will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with truth.

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

***SECOND READING • Titus 2:11-14**

Reader A Reading from Titus.

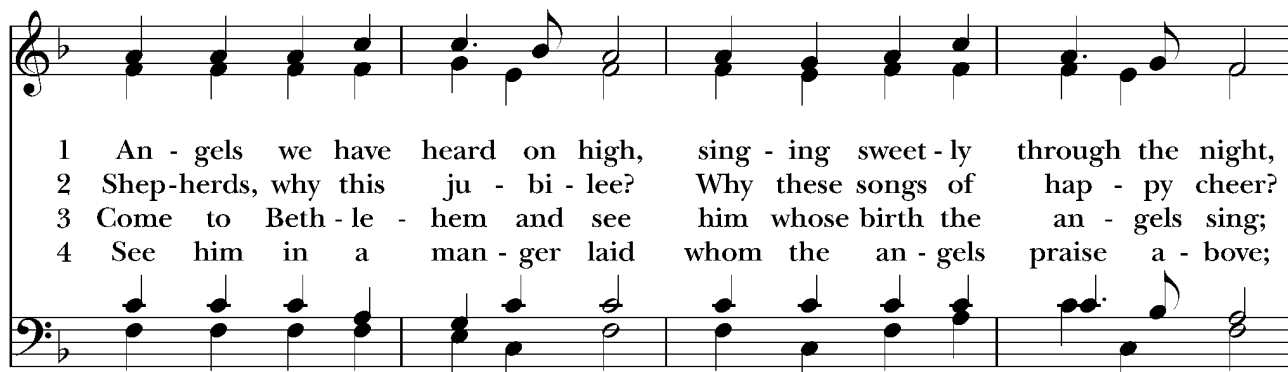
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-

controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

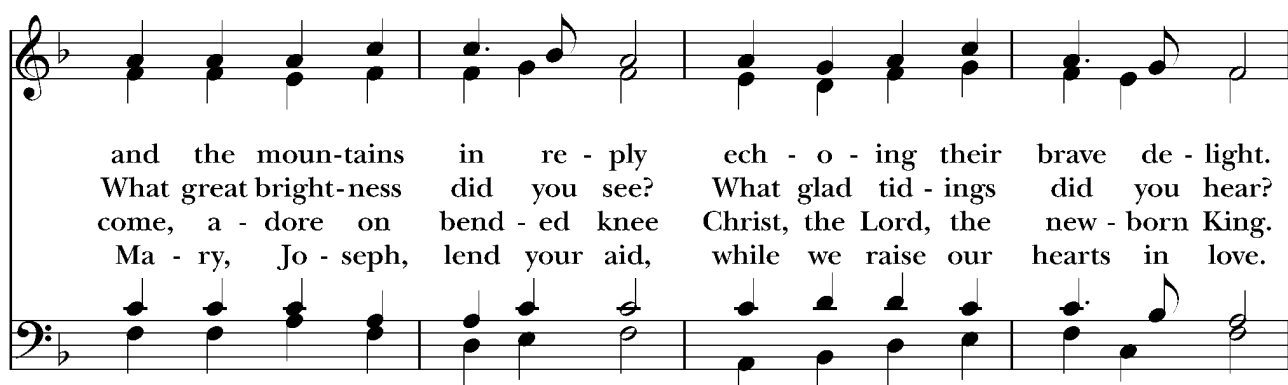
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

***GOSPEL HYMN • Angels We Have Heard On High • Hymnal #96**



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

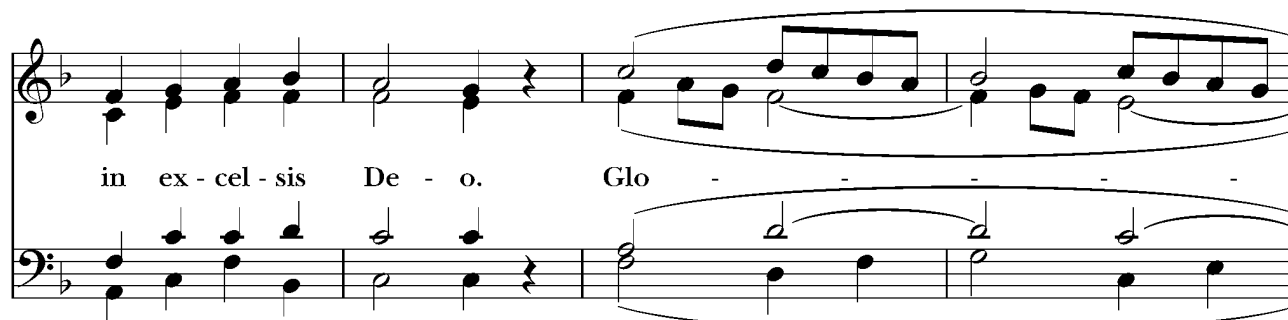


and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

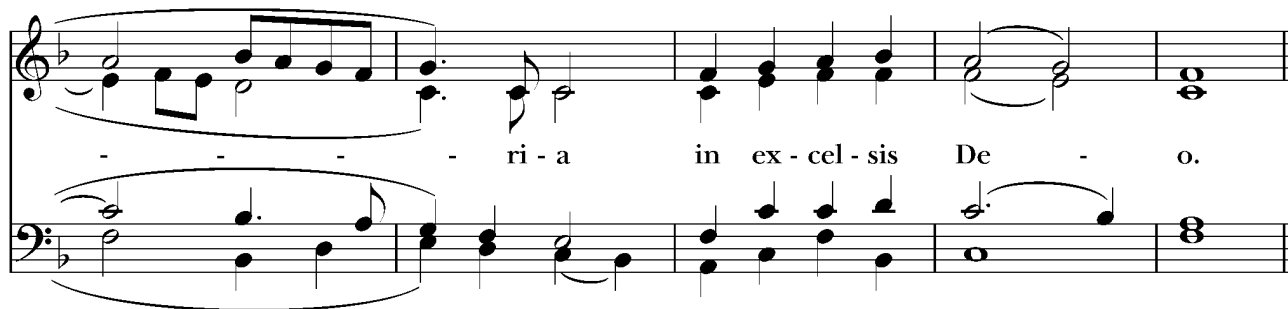
Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



***THE GOSPEL • Luke 2:1-20**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Priest In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the

shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON • The Rev. Michael Burke

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.*

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

*he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.*

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

*We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

***THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

As we come to the time of the prayers of the people, I invite you to stand or kneel as you are able. There will be a brief time to share our own prayers aloud, if you wish you may also leave your prayers in the offering basket when it is passed so that it can be delivered to our prayer team to be prayed over by the congregation throughout the week. For those online your prayers as well will be delivered to the prayer team, even if they are not read aloud.

Pause before continuing.

In hope we pray to God our Creator.

Silence

O God, who sent to us our Savior, whose Body is your Church, grant that all who wait for Christ may be united in your truth, live in your peace, and reveal your love to the world.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, whose Kingdom holds heaven and earth as one, grant our leaders and all in authority would be convicted to love justice and govern rightly so that all people might live in safety; and where there is oppression, injustice, and inequity, we pray that your light would show forth and that the world might be healed.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, whose Spirit comes among us to inspire and to restore, grant peace, healing, and hope to the sick, the hungry, the naked, and the imprisoned; the migrant, the refugee, the unemployed, and the unhoused; those who are victims of violence, those who struggle with mental health, and those whose lives are overtaken by turmoil and chaos.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, who created this lovely world, grant to your people the desire, the knowledge and the determination to be proper stewards of the earth, that all may share in your bounty and your peace.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, who knows our needs and concerns, and cares for us even as you care for the birds of the air and the flower in the field, we lift up these petitions that weigh on our hearts this week.

Silence, the people may add their own prayers or petitions here.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, who brings us the living water and leads us to eternal life, grant to the dying and those who mourn your comfort and your peace.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

Silence may be kept.

A priest says Together, praying,

People ***Most merciful God,***

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

A Priest says

Hear this Good News, and be joyful;

Our God is reaching toward us,
bringing a loving forgiveness.

For all who are truly sorry,

for all who forgive,

all will be forgiven.

Be at peace, God's pardon makes us whole once more.

People Thanks be to God!

*THE PEACE

Priest The peace of Christ be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Then the People may greet one another in the name of God.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Offerings toward the work and ministry of St. Mary's may be made by texting StMarysAK to 73256, at GodsView.org, or by using this QR code:



OFFERTORY ANTHEM • *Away In The Manger* • arr. Wilberg

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below,

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

*PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People *And of thine own have we given thee.*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord is here.

People *God's Spirit is with us.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

A Celebrant continues

Indeed it is right to give you thanks and praise, O God: out of chaos and darkness you have created light and an abundance of life.

From the depths of winter, the new life of spring and the warmth of summer, you bring forth a harvest of bounty. Your world is indeed good.

Through your Son, who lived and worked, wept and laughed among us, you were one with us in human flesh. You sent your Spirit to bring new life to tired bones and souls, causing living water to spring from dry, thirsty places and putting a new song on our lips.

So, together with all your saints and angels, with prophets and martyrs, the living and the departed, we sing to you a hymn of unending praise...

***SANCTUS • WLP 854 • arr. Luke Honeck**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est. San - to,



san - to, san- to es el Se-ñor. Ho- san - na, ho- san - na, ho- san- na en el



cie - lo. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -




san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en el cie - lo.


Glory and honor to you, God of life, for the gift of Jesus our Lord. Christ is the first fruit of your creation, with you before time, bringing all to completion through his

death on a cross. By your power you raised him: evil can never overcome your love. You set us free to be your body, serving you in the world.

On the night before he died, knowing that his time had come, while at supper with his disciples, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, and broke it, saying:

'Take, eat. This is my Body, broken for you.' 


After supper he took the cup, gave you thanks, and gave it to them, saying:

'Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me.' 

We do now what Christ taught us: we remember his death and resurrection and look forward to that day when all will be complete in him. We offer ourselves and all that we are: our gifts and talents, our strengths and weaknesses, to the glory and honour of your name.

Celebrant Christ is the bread of life:
People ***when we eat this bread and drink this cup,
 we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
 until you come in glory.***

A Celebrant continues Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle upon this bread and wine and bless them with the fullness of Jesus.

People ***And let that same Spirit rest on us, too, converting us from the patterns of this world, until we become more like Jesus, whose food we now share.***
AMEN. 

Priest As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Responses from the People in bold and italic

God's love reaches out to us

Our Father in heaven

This place is sacred ground.

Hallowed be your name

May our lives reflect God's glory:

Your kingdom come

May our thoughts reflect God's thoughts

Your will be done

We long for deep peace:

On earth as it is in heaven.

Love blesses life, knowing earth will provide.

Give us this day our daily bread

Where love falls short:

Forgive our sin

Let justice prevail.

As we forgive those who sin against us

Prevent the chaos that leads to wrong-doing:

Lead us not into temptation

For grace is strong where freedom is found.

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then is said

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

Lord, unite us in this sign.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following invitation

This is the table, not of the church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little; Come, it is the invitation of the Lord. It is God's will we should meet God here together, as one body.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are Welcome at the Lord's table. This is Christ's Banquet. It is made ready for those who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow, and you who feel you have failed. Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

COMMUNION HYMN • *O Little Town of Bethlehem* • Hymnal #79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

COMMUNION HYMN • *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come* • Hymnal #100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

-continued on next page-

heaven and na - ture sing,
peat the sound - ing joy,
as the curse is found,
won - ders of his love,

-next hymn on next page-

COMMUNION HYMN • *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!* • Hymnal #87

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic, with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

***THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (*adapted from BCP and NZ Prayer Book*)

After Communion, a priest says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God of abundance,

you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation;

you have united us with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Send us now into the world in peace to live in love and joy.

Grant us grace to welcome the Christ who comes in your name,

and courage to be Christ for others:

hands and hope to the helpless,

food and friend for the hungry,

and rescue for the oppressed. Amen.

BLESSING

A priest blesses the people, saying

May Christ our infant saviour give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds,

the awe of the worshipping sages,

and the humility and love of the holy family.

May the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life be with you always.

Amen.

SENDING OUT EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant: (*Name*), in the name of this congregation, we send you to share our

Eucharist with _____. May you take the prayers of all of us as you deliver the sacrament of Christ's presence.

All: *We who are many are one body, because we all share in the one cup!*

Celebrant: Go forth in the name of God!

BIRTHDAYS

Watch over your child, O God, as their days increase; bless and guide them where ever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful, raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding, abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES

Send, O God, your blessing upon these your servants. Sustain them in their love and commitment to each other, that their home may be a place of peace and hospitality now and always. Amen.

SOBRIETY

Bless, O God, your servant in their work of recovery; defend them in their sobriety; and bless them with strength and wisdom now and always. Amen.

WORK TRANSITION OR RETIREMENT

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family; now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Guide them in the continued use of your gifts; provide sustenance for temporal and spiritual needs, friends to cheer the way, and a clear vision of the ministry to which you are now calling them. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

BLESSING SONG

May the blessing of God be upon you, the blessing of the Father and the Son. And may the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Love, be with you all your days.*

**Spirit of Peace [second verse]*

***RECESSIONAL HYMN • Silent Night, Holy Night • Hymnal #111**

During the singing of Silent Night, the lights are lowered and candlelight, representing the light of Christ, the light of Hope, the light of Life, is passed from one to another. (The light may be passed most safely by holding the lit candle upright, and tipping an unlit candle toward it.)

*RECESSIONAL HYMN • *Silent Night, Holy Night* • Hymnal #111

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*DISMISSAL

A minister says

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

The Eucharist is ended, our service now begins.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Amen.

GOT BAPTISM?

For people of all ages, Holy Baptism is a foundational part of becoming a follower of Jesus and a member of the community. If you would like more information, or to have a conversation about this important step in faith, please email Rev. Michael at Michael@GodsView.org.

We are preparing now for baptisms of both children and adults after New Year's, so you are "right on time." We'll have sessions for preparation beginning in January, and baptisms and renewal of baptisms will take place on January 12 at the 10am Service of Holy The Baptism of our Lord Sunday.



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GROUPS CURRENTLY ACTIVE AT ST. MARY'S

Call (907)563-3341 for more information, or visit GodsView.org

Short Informal Service, followed by breakfast – *Wed. mornings 7:00 -7:20am*

Men's Small Group Bible Study – *Thurs. mornings 7:00 - 8:00am*

Fierce Women's Bible Study – *Mondays at 6:00pm*

Afternoon Bible Study (Book of Job) – *Fridays at 1:00pm*

Women's Book Group

Christian dream work and reflection groups

Taizé-style worship – *Third Thursdays at 7pm in the Chapel (in the A-frame)*

Scouts, *for info call Brad Sewell, 346-4314*

Women's Knitting Circle

Bazaar Team (craft making, jams, jellies, fabric art). *Times vary throughout year*

Sunday Morning Adult Christian Formation, *various times, Waldron Hall*

Sr. High Youth Group activities, *trips and events, various times*

Jr. High Youth Group activities, *trips and events, various times*

Sunday School, *ages 4-19 Sundays 11:30am-12:30pm downstairs level*

Godly Play (*Montessori-based exploration of the stories of Jesus (ages 4 and up),
Sundays, 10 am, downstairs level*)

Sanctuary Choir, *Rehearse Wednesdays 6:15 – 7:15pm*

Praise Singers roots music group. *Rehearse Wednesdays 7:30pm – 8:30pm*

Christians for Equality (Social Justice) *Meets monthly 563-3341 ext. 14 for info*

Anchorage Faith and Action – *Congregations Together. Community organizing.*

St. Mary's Creative Playschool events

Numerous events at The Thomas Center for Senior Leadership

And various retreats, workshop, presentations, outreach teams, & celebrations all year long. Looking for community, fellowship, and service? Come join us!

PARTNERS in SERVICE: In 2023-2024, St. Mary's has partnered with over seventy-five groups and organizations through a combination of joint programming, provision of services, building use, or pastoral care services or funding.

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)	99+ 1 (Homelessness)
Alaskans for Better Choices / Volunteers of America (DUI re-education / victim impact panels)	First Christian Church After School Program
Alaska Coalition to End Homelessness	Nasenga Primary School (Malawi)
Best Beginnings (early childhood education)	The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission
Standing Together Against Rape	Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
Partners in Homeless Education	Heifer Project International
United Thank Offering (UTO)	Nets for Life (Malaria Prevention)
Malawi Children's Village	Episcopal Relief and Development
Children's Lunchbox – Hunger Program	Older Persons Action Group
The Episcopal Diocese of AK	Christians For Equality
Episcopal Native Ministries	Homeward Bound / Karluk Manor
Faith Into Tomorrow	Hope Community Resources
Diocesan Investment Committee	Anchorage Interfaith Council
Commission on Ministry	Sand Lake parishes- Malawi, Africa
South Central Deanery	Identity, Inc. – civil rights
Episcopal Prison Ministry	The Alaska Christian Conference
Fellowship In Serving Humanity	Thomas Center for Senior Leadership
Helping Hand Bags	Red Cross - Disaster Relief
P.L.U.M.E. Ecumenical Ministry	New Chance Ministries Ukrainian Refugee Relief
Nkope School for the Blind	The Lullaby Project at Hiland Mountain
Dancing in the Spirit Ministries	Bread for the World
Numerous 12-Step recovery groups:	Open Arms Orphan Nursery (Malawi)
St. Mary's Creative Playschool	Choosing Our Roots (COR)
Alaska Native Medical Center pastoral care department	Arciniega Productions Youth Program
Brother Francis Shelter	Covenant House Alaska
Beans Café	Henning, Inc. (Homelessness)
	AK Cubs Closet (kids and families)
	St. Mary's Rapid Rehousing Fund

The Queen's Guard
Knitters of the North
Community Yoga for Elders
Girdwood Chapel
Hospice of Anchorage
I-Act Little Ripples Program
PILA Global (kids at the border)
AK Correctional Ministries
Assist Ukraine (refugees)
Underground Pride
Water.org (safe water—developing world)

Magic Yarn Project (kids w/cancer)
Newborns in Need – AK Chapter
Cafecito Bonito
Anchor Gardens
Facing Foster Care
Cub Scouts / Scouting
Tudor Elementary School
The Alaska Conference of the United
Methodist Church
Inside Out Faith





THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

December 22-29, 2024

Visit <https://www.godsview.org/newsletter-signup/>
to sign up for our newsletter

Sunday, December 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent

8 am Service of Holy Eucharist
Chapel

9 am Christian Formation
Cay's Room & classrooms

10 am Service of Holy Eucharist
Sanctuary & online;
ID 940 3189 1877

10 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
Various classrooms

11:20 am Fellowship Hour
Waldron Hall

4 pm Evening Prayer
Sanctuary

Monday, December 23

No scheduled church events

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Christmas Pageant and Service
Sanctuary

9 pm Christmas Eve Service, with organ choir

Sanctuary & online;
ID 940 3189 1877

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day, with piano and guitar

10 am Christmas Day Service
Sanctuary

Thursday, December 26

No scheduled church events

Friday, December 27

1 pm Book of Job Bible Study
Cay's Room

Saturday, December 28

No scheduled church events

Sunday, December 29

8 am Service of Holy Eucharist
Chapel

10 am Service of Lessons & Carols with Eucharist

Sanctuary & online;
ID 940 3189 1877

11:20 am Fellowship Hour
Waldron Hall

4 pm Evening Prayer
Sanctuary

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!

Web: GodsView.org



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